

Washington, DC-Today House Veteran's Affairs Committee member Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) announced passage in the House of the veterans Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) which increases disability payments to veterans and survivor families. The Veterans Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) Act of 2008 (S. 2617) increases the rates of disability and survivor benefits for our nation's veterans and their families.

"Our veterans have made difficult sacrifices and helped ensure the safety of American families," said Rodriguez. "With gas prices high and our economy struggling, I am honoring veterans in Texas and throughout the country with my words and actions by helping to pass the bills which keep the promises we have made to our veterans. The COLA will help our veterans by providing a needed addition to compensation for disabled veterans and survivor families, some of whom depend on these benefits as their only source of income."

The adjustment is tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) which is to be determined after the third quarter of the year. The CPI has averaged a 4.39% annual increase from 1975-2007. Last year's increase was 2.3%.

"Congressman Rodriguez has done more than just talk the talk for veterans time and time again. By getting this bipartisan COLA sent to the President's desk, he has shown that he understands the true meaning of taking care of veterans," said Eddie Torres, Commander VFW Post 4815 from San Antonio. "To keep America's promise to us means more than just thanking us for our service. It means actually funding programs we need when we return back to civilian life and that's just what Congressman Rodriguez has done."

The bill will now be sent to the President for his signature.